

The Coin Collectors' Journal.

DEVOTED TO NUMISMATICS and PHILATELY.

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No. 4

For the Coin Journal.

A RARE COIN FIND.

BY CLEVE SCOTT.

Every coin collector in his collecting days has had some rare finds, as a rare old U. S. coin in some old garret, trunk or cabin, and wild with overflowing joy, he had related the adventures of the find to some of his fellow-collectors, who, with open-mouth wonder took everything in until it was exhausted and then they would give suggestions, and great coin finds would run riot through his brain.

No doubt the average persistent coin collector's mouth will water at a great rate at the following actual experience which befel me.

Tiring of my native town, I concluded to spend some months with relatives in Indiana, so I started, arriving some time after. Of course every coin collector has a very prying curiosity (not lacking in my case). I hunted through old garrets, trunks, sheds and cabins till my cousin got thoroughly disgusted with me and said I could go on hunting to the end of the earth if I chose, as he was tired of my inexhaustible collecting turn: so I resorted to myself and

hunted still more persistently.

I hunted for coins until I almost got disgusted myself. One day I wandered through the woods and saw a log cabin in the distance, this was my beacon, so I started briskly forward and softly approached the cabin. Approaching the wide open door, I gazed in. It was empty from tip to top. I boldly entered and began a hasty search and even looked in the cellar but nothing could I find. At last I noticed a garret door overhead and I concluded to search the garret.

I climbed up and groping around in the dark, and seeing nothing, I lit a match which flickered a moment, but great things are sometimes seen in a moment. In one corner I saw an old fashioned box which I approached as well as I could.

I reached my hand out and seized it with a strong grip. Hastily I scrambled down.

I sat down in the door of the hut and proceeded to reveal the contents of the small box. Opening it, I was greeted with the sight of another smaller box, and opening this oh can't I hold it back? No, joy bursts out before you can prevent.

(To be continued)

NUMISMATICS.

The American Numismatic and Archæological Society have moved to new and more desirable rooms at the Academy of Medicine Building, 17 West 43rd Street, located at N. York City. The rooms will be open as heretofore every Thursday evening when the Library and Cabinets will be accessible to members.

Received of Chas. Steigerwalt, of 130 East King St., Lancaster, Pa., a cheap clearance price list of Coins, Paper Money, etc. He has quite a variety and the coins are cheap for the money.

What gives a coin value? The age of coin is not conclusive to establish rarity; it is the historic value it may possess or the limited number struck which will make it sought after by a large number of collectors. A coin or cent of 1783, Nova Constellatio, is obtainable in fair condition for 35 cents, while the 20 cent pieces from the U. S. mint of 1877 and 1878 command from ten to fifteen times their face values. To go back a little further a United States cent of almost any date between 1793 and 1814 in perfect state of preservation is worth \$5, while some of the dates within this period are worth very much more, \$25 is not an uncommon price for the cents of 1793, 1799 and 1804.

NUMISMATIC TERMS.

A COIN is a piece of metal bear-

ing an impressed device and designed for circulation as money.

The OBERSE of a coin is that side which bears the portraits of principal design, indicating the country, nation or object.

The REVERSE, of course, means the opposite of obverse.

The HEAD or Portrait on a piece is said to face to the right or to the left, with reference to the observer's right or left hand.

YPES are the principal device or object represented.

VARIETIES means when the variation in two coins of same value and period is very slight, as in size of letters, etc.

The FIELD is the area or space between the type and the circumference.

The INSCRIPTION means all names, legends, titles, etc. on the coin or medal.

A MINT MARK is a private mark placed on a coin by the mint issuing it to indicate its genuineness, place of coinage or other purpose.

The SIZE of Coins in this country is determined by a scale of sixteenths of an inch, thus size "24" measures 24 sixteenths of an inch in diameter across its face.

MONEY IN EUROPE.

The pennyweight was the exact weight of the old British silver penny.

The cost of making a £1000 Bank of England note is less than a penny

The Coin Collectors' Journal.

Devoted to Coins and Stamps.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Fifteen Cents a Year.

Advertising Rates, 1 to 12 months.

	1	2	3	4	6	12
$\frac{1}{2}$ inch	.25	.40	.50	.60	.75	1.50
1 inch	.45	.70	.90	1.05	1.30	2.30
$\frac{1}{4}$ col	.90	1.40	1.80	2.10	2.50	4.50
$\frac{1}{2}$ col	1.60	2.70	3.30	3.75	4.50	8.50
1 col	3.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.50	16.00

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All ads. must reach here by the 10th of each month to insure insertion.

Positively cash must accompany all orders. Postal Notes preferred. Make Orders payable at Waterbury, Conn.

C. H. TRASK, Editor and Publisher.
Box 30, Middlebury, Conn.

PHILATELY.

All matter for this department should be addressed to WALTER E. BILLINGS, No. Leominster, Mass.

The Sons of Philatelia seems to be the most prosperous society in the country just at present. It has now over 250 members and is gaining about 50 every month. The Collector, of New Chester, Pa., is official organ and R. M. Miller, of the same place, is Secretary.

Millard F. Walton, publisher of the Quaker City Philatelist, will retire from the stamp business and sell his stock at auction. Bogert & Durbin will catalogue it.

Mr. G. B. Calman, of New York has purchased all the "Seebeck remainders."

The review column of the Philatelic Era is that paper's best feature.

STAMPS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

This country is a province of Canada. It has a length of 130 miles and a breadth of from 4 to 34 and an area of 2133 square miles. A complete set of the stamps of this country form a beautiful page in any album. Five stamps were issued in 1860, one each in 1869 and 1870 and six in 1872. A set cost now several dollars and the prices are going higher. The stamps were superceded by those of Canada in 1873.

WEB.

The way to make long and constant friends is to deal with them honest and fair.

Every one should try to be good, but no one should depend on being to make a living by it.

Don't meddle with other people's business, if you wish to gain the good will and favor of all your friends and foes.

Never deviate from your word or way, only when you find you are in the wrong, then go to the right without a murmur. Then you will succeed in all your undertakings if you are honest and energetic.

We all know it has rained a long time, but we should not complain. Just think of the reign period in England, for instance.

A check for £5,333,650, paid for the Kimberly diamond mines, is said to be the largest check ever drawn in England.

The marks £ s d, used as the designations of the principal denominations of British money, are an abbreviation for the Latin *libra, solidi et denarii*—pounds, shillings and pence.

According to *La Nature* (Paris) a treasure composed of pieces of gold as large as a twenty mark piece, has been found at Beuthen in Silesia. The piece, of which there are said to be about a million, are stamped with a portrait of King Otho, of Bohemia, and bear date of 1608.

OUR SILVER DOLLAR.

The weight of pure silver in silver dollars has never been decreased a particle; it always has contained 371½ grains of pure silver. In 1837 in order to adopt the handy French decimal system of alloy, we put exactly one pound less copper in two thousand dollars. Thus when you hear any one speak of the debasement of the United States dollar, remember that all we have to ask forgiveness for is this trifle, which is allowed by the constitution of the United States.

The sin of debasement was committed in 1834 on our gold coins by reducing them about 6¼ per cent. Had they reduced the gold coins only half as much, it would have been an act strongly indorsed to-day

but now unwise to adopt.

In 1837 a minute fraction of gold was added to the weight of the coin for convenience in mint calculation.

These two, the gold dollar of 25 8-10 and the silver dollar of 412½ grains of standard metal, meaning that each thousand parts of coin were alloyed with one hundred parts of copper, were the basis dollars on which the government was conducted from 1837 to 1873.

The issue of greenbacks did not disturb these coined dollars. These were the legal coins our laws referred to in the issue of all national bonds sold during our war of secession. These were the coined dollars which we promised to pay in the redemption of our greenbacks.

In 1869 in an act passed to strengthen our public credit we find this clause: "The United States solemnly pledges its faith to make provision at the earliest possible period for the redemption of United States notes in coin."

In all these laws the word gold is not used but it is always coin. We kept coining these silver dollars to a limited extent all through the war, although the silver in them was really worth four per cent more than the gold in the gold dollar.

In 1871-73 we coined more than two and a half million of these silver dollars each of which considerably exceeded the gold dollar in value.

EXPLANATION OF FOREIGN WEIGHTS.


The rates of exchange and price of gold here are to be taken into account in forming a comparison between foreign markets and our own.

English.—In round numbers, count for a pound sterling marked thus, (£) \$4.84; for a shilling marked thus (s) 24 cents; for a penny marked thus, (d) 2 cents.

Continent of Europe.—A franc composed of 100 centimes marked thus, (f) is 19 cents; five centimes are equal to one cent. In France a kilo is about 1 1-5 pounds. In Austria a florin equal to sixty kreutzers is worth forty-eight cents; the German florin is forty cents. In Prussia a thaler equal to eighty silver groschen is worth 71 cents; in Hamburg a marco bank equal to sixteen schillings is worth 36 cents. In Holland a guilder or florin equal to 100 Dutch cents is worth 41 cents. A Holland centner is equal to about 109 pounds, a Prussian centner to 103 pounds.

The New Orleans mint is turning out 100,000 dimes daily.

Hebb's Advertising and Subscription Agency, Lawrence, Mass., are agents for this paper.

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These packets are warranted to be just as represented and contain no torn or badly canceled stamps. All orders under 25 cents must contain stamp for return postage.

No. 16 contains 50 fine varieties from Japan, Victoria, Ceylon, Australia, India, etc. Price, 5c.

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MINERALOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

Connecticut is not considered a mineral state except iron, but there have been found other minerals than iron.

Mr. Editor, I now speak of an ore called Washingtonite. When it has been assayed it yields from fifty to sixty per cent of iron. It is found in different localities in New Haven County, also in Fairfield Co.

They are found in different sizes and thicknesses, and are of a shiny smooth black color, from one-sixteenth of an inch up to four sixteenths of an inch in thickness.

They are very nice to look at, also to keep for a cabinet.

In size they vary from a three cent piece to a half dollar, but none are round.

The other ingredient found in Washingtonite is called Titaneum, an article used in the manufacture of false teeth. There are two kinds of Titaneum, the red and the black.

There is another name given for Titaneum and that is Rutile. The red and the black you will find sometimes in small nuggets, very handsome, stuck on a piece of rock the size of a half dollar and upwards. It has been found in small pieces in Fairfield county. The black is called the best.

Magnetic iron has been found but not enough to pay for mining, also Washingtonite or Rutile as the wri-

ter of this article well and truly knows.

MINERAL OR DIVINING RODS

The mineral or divining rod is but a relic of ancient superstitions and fraud. The earlier divining rod was usually made of the hazel, a forked branch being preferred, and with this the so-called diviner or water witch pretended he could locate underground streams of water and veins of precious minerals and buried treasure of various kinds.

In later years rods of brass, copper and iron have been employed as divining rods, but, unfortunately, with no better results than can be secured with a forked branch of hazel or other kind of wood.

Scientific men who have bestowed any care on the examination of nature regard the alleged powers of the divining rod as a delusion, and for this reason no dealer in scientific instruments ever offer such a thing for sale.—[N. Y. Sun.

THE WRONG CLASS.

"Do I have to stick this stamp on myself?" asked a dude of the clerk at the postoffice.

"Oh, no," replied the clerk, "you couldn't go in the mail bags, and besides, that is a letter stamp and you are not first class male matter."

PHILATELY.

ANNIVERSARY OF POSTAGE STAMPS

The postage stamp will celebrate its 52nd anniversary on May 6th of next year. Its invention is due to a printer, James Chalmers, of Dundee, Scotland, who died in 1853. England, 52 years ago, introduced the new system of preparing letter postage, and according to a decree of Dec. 21, 1839, issued the first stamps, which were to be put before the public on May 6th of the following year as noted above. A year later they were introduced in the United States and Switzerland and within three years had become common in Bavaria, Belgium, France. One of the most important and valuable collections of postage stamps and other postal devices in the world is in the German Imperial Post Office Museum at Berlin.

We have received the Essex Co. Philatelist, a large magazine for collectors. It is now in its third year, edited by W. M. Stuart and published by Essex Co. Philatelic Pub. Co., Lawrence, Mass.

TRIANGULAR STAMPS.

BY "WEB."

Stamps of this unusual shape have been used in four countries, viz: Cape of Good Hope, United States, Newfoundland and the United States of Columbia.

We will first consider those of the Cape, as they are the oldest. Their design, a seated figure of Hope, is so well known as to need no description. Two values appeared in 1853, one penny, red on blue paper and four pence, blue on white paper. Later the one penny was printed on white paper and two more, six pence lilac and one shilling green were added. All of this set were watermarked with an anchor and were current until 1865.

During a scarcity of stamps at the Cape post office in 1851, the authorities ordered imitations of them to be engraved on wood and used until a supply arrived from the mother country. Accordingly a number of the one and four pence were made in the colony and used for a time. These were the same colors as the previous ones, but by accident some of the one pennies were printed in blue and the four pence in red. This set is now very scarce.

The Metropolitan Errand & Carrier Express Co., of New York issued in 1855 a set of local stamps which, while not exactly triangular were very nearly so.

There were 1, 5, 10 and 20 cts, all red in color, and a two cent envelope. These are the only U. S. stamps which can in any sense be called triangular.

Next month I will describe at length the beautiful issues of Newfoundland and United States of Columbia.

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We will X the above papers and coins for any kind of curiosity, coins or relics you may send us. Publishers whose papers are delivered to curiosities, coins, relics, can insert this ad. and we will send the above papers and coins in pay for same.

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STOP

Do you want to interest the people of your town or village or even in the country, and at the same time make lots of money for yourself? If so, don't delay, but send two cent stamp at once to Rev. E. W. SCOTT, Potts Camp, Miss, and get a surprise.

WAMPUM or old Indian Money, the first money of the No. American Indians; each piece is about an inch long, tapering and slightly bent. We have a choice collection of these ancient relics, collected by an Indian trader while among the Alaska Indians. In order to prepare them for specimens, we have had them neatly mounted on cardboard and labeled, 6 and 12 pieces on a card (assorted) Price 25 and 50. Every collector who takes an interest in his cabinet should add one of these cards to it. **The Great American Curiosity Co.,** Box 217, Lawrence, Mass

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